

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A process for preparing a polyol comprising combining

- i) at least one starter compound which has active hydrogen atoms; with
- ii) at least one oxide;

in the presence of

- iii) at least one double-metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst prepared by combining at least one metal salt, at least one metal cyanide salt, at least one organic complexing ligand, at least one alkali metal salt, and optionally, at least one functionalized polymer, under conditions sufficient to form a catalyst; and adding a sufficient amount of the at least one alkali metal salt to the catalyst so formed in an amount such that the catalyst includes the at least one alkali metal salt in an amount of from about 0.4 to about 6 wt. % based on the total weight of the catalystdouble-metal cyanide catalyst prepared according to the process of Claim 1;

under conditions sufficient to form a polyol.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A The process according to Claim 10, wherein the polyol is a polyether polyol prepared by the process of Claim 10.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A The process according to Claim 10, wherein the polyol is a polyester polyol prepared by the process of Claim 10.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A The process according to Claim 10, wherein the polyol is a polyetherester polyol prepared by the process of Claim 10.

Claims 14-25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one metal salt is chosen from zinc chloride, zinc bromide, zinc acetate, zinc acetylacetonate, zinc benzoate, zinc nitrate, zinc propionate, zinc formate, iron(II) sulfate, iron(II) bromide, cobalt(II) chloride, cobalt(II) thiocyanate, nickel(II) formate, nickel(II) nitrate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 27 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one metal cyanide salt is chosen from potassium hexacyanocobaltate (III), potassium hexacyanoferrate(II), potassium hexacyanoferrate(III), lithium hexacyanoiridate(III), lithium hexacyanocobaltate(III), sodium hexacyanocobaltate(III) and cesium hexacyanocobaltate(III).

Claim 28 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one organic complexing ligand is chosen from ethanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, iso-butanol, sec-butanol and tert-butyl alcohol.

Claim 29 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one alkali metal salt is chosen from potassium chloride, sodium chloride, sodium bromide, lithium chloride and lithium bromide.

Claim 30 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one functionalized polymer is present in an amount in the range of from about 2 to about 98 wt. %, based on the total weight of the double-metal cyanide catalyst.

Claim 31 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one functionalized polymer is a polyether; polyester; polycarbonate; polyalkylene glycol sorbitan ester; polyalkylene glycol glycidyl ether; polyacrylamide; poly(acrylamide-co-acrylic acid), polyacrylic acid, poly(acrylic acid-co-maleic acid), poly(N-

vinylpyrrolidone-co-acrylic acid), poly(acrylic acid-co-styrene) or their salts; maleic acid, styrene or maleic anhydride copolymers or their salts; polyacrylonitriles; polyalkyl acrylate; polyalkyl methacrylate; polyvinyl methyl ether; polyvinyl ethyl ether; polyvinyl acetate; polyvinyl alcohol; poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone; polyvinyl methyl ketone; poly(4-vinylphenol); oxazoline polymer; polyalkyleneimine; hydroxyethyl-cellulose; polyacetal; glycidyl ether; glycoside; carboxylic acid ester of polyhydric alcohol; bile acid or its salt, ester or amide; cyclodextrin; phosphorus compound; unsaturated carboxylic acid ester; or an ionic surface- or interface-active compound.

Claim 32 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one starter compound is chosen from polyoxypropylene polyols, polyoxyethylene polyols, polytetramethylene ether glycols, glycerol, propoxylated glycerols, tripropylene glycol, alkoxylated allylic alcohols, bisphenol A, pentaerythritol, sorbitol, sucrose, degraded starch, water and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (New): The process according to Claim 10, wherein at least one oxide is chosen from ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide and mixtures thereof.